



## Leptospirosis - Current risk factors connected with human activity and the environment

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### Abstract:

Leptospirosis is a widespread although recently neglected zoonosis recognized worldwide. The disease seems to be underestimated, especially in countries located in the temperate climatic zone. The presented article concerns the main characteristics of leptospirosis and describes formerly known and recently observed environmental, occupational and recreational risk factors significant in the spreading and pathogenesis of the disease. The aspects of epidemiology significant in the temperate climatic zone are emphasized. The majority of cited articles present cases of the disease reported from Europe or North America. Climatic changes (warming) and extreme weather events such as floods are potential risk factors of leptospirosis. Also, some socio-economic phenomena, such as the intensive migration of people resulting in the transfer of the infections acquired in tropical countries, or worsening of economic status in the cities, increase the probability of disease. Apart from the danger connected with rodents, which are the main vectors of leptospires, occurrence of the disease in dogs and cats can generate a higher risk of infection for humans. Infections may also be acquired during various types of agricultural work and during recreational activities, such as swimming. The results of recent investigations show that ticks are also potential vectors of leptospires. The more frequent emergence of leptospirosis in countries located in the temperate climatic zone emphasize the need to verify knowledge related to the risk of its appearance, and to consider this disease during diagnostic processes.

**Source:** [http://aaem.pl/abstracted.php?levelEuro Surveillance \(Bulletin Europeen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin\)5&ICIDEuro Surveillance \(Bulletin Europeen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin\)1052323](http://aaem.pl/abstracted.php?levelEuro%20Surveillance%20(Bulletin%20Europ%C3%A9en%20Sur%20Les%20Maladies%20Transmissibles%3A%20European%20Communicable%20Disease%20Bulletin)5&ICIDEuro%20Surveillance%20(Bulletin%20Europ%C3%A9en%20Sur%20Les%20Maladies%20Transmissibles%3A%20European%20Communicable%20Disease%20Bulletin)1052323)

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional



# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

## **Exposure :**

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Human Conflict/Displacement, Temperature

**Extreme Weather Event:** Flooding

**Temperature:** Fluctuations

## **Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Tropical, Other Geographical Feature

**Other Geographical Feature :** Temperate

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

**Infectious Disease:** Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

**Foodborne/Waterborne Disease:** Leptospirosis

## **Medical Community Engagement:**

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

## **Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Workers

**Other Vulnerable Population:** Migrants;Water sport participants

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

## Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified